of the technical skills requested;

means for submitting the request to contracted suppliers by e-mail notification notifying the supplier that a new request has been entered into the SMA application for them to review and submit a candidate against;

means for receiving from a supplier a candidate or candidates with appended resumes as appropriate; and

means for displaying for the user the supplier responses and associated resumes.

Claim 3 (Amended). The Skills Matching Application of claim 1, further comprising [the step of] means for responding to a user's selection of a candidate or candidates by invoking an approval and procurement process.

Claim 4 (Amended). A Web-based Skills Matching Application (SMA) which allows a user to communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a way that significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of requests sent to suppliers comprising [the steps of]:

means for accessing the SMA from a Web-based Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT) Web application;

means for selecting by a user who needs to request a technical contractor a SMA Web site;

means for prompting the user through a series of screens in the SMA Web site to enter a Statement of Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for each of the technical skills requested;

means for submitting the request to contracted suppliers who are sent an e-mail notification notifying the supplier that a new request has been entered into the SMA application for them to review and submit a candidate against;

means for accessing the SMA Web site database by a supplier to view the request details;